

**TOWN CENTER COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES OCT.16, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 12:02.

Present: Nelson Disco, Peter and Jackie Flood, Mary Hendricks, Karen Freed, Bill Wilkes, Davis Powell, Finlay Rothhaus.

Minutes: Karen moved to approve the minutes, Mary seconded, all were in favor.

Old Business: Status of SRST plans for 2015: no report.

Status of TAP award: Nelson was updated by Kyle Fox. Quantum Consultants are working on the Scope of Work; after that is complete, it will go to the Department of Transportation where they will cost it out. Quantum is also working on the Baboosic Brook bridges.

Merrill's Marauders sign: Nelson and Joe Herlihy walked out to where the sign will be. They think that clamping the sign to the bridge behind the chain link fence is a good idea; we all agreed. Joe has the money from the Park Service and will send the final design to us. We will agree on the final version by consensus on line.

Farmers' Market: The exposure to our poster with the new map was excellent; many people were very interested and pleased with the map and the explanations. Karen further edited the Town Center Committee leaflet, which has a map of the Souhegan River Trail and quite a lot of substantive information, and was a successful handout. The leaflet can easily be further adjusted and enhanced. Nelson suggested that we examine it for further improvement.

The Business Expo was also attended with a table and map setup and leaflets to hand out. It was a very popular stop, and people lingered examining the map and asking questions. Many shared their own favorite trails, particularly the Souhegan River Trail segments.

New Business: Nelson will attend the annual review of the Town Center Committee at the Town Council meeting of Nov. 5. He will talk about our current membership, the TAP award and its process, the new map of the Souhegan River trails and surroundings, the Merrill's Marauders sign, and the offer of marble benches for the trail from David Brooks of Granite Products. He will also inform them about the effort of public outreach as part of our mission. For 2016, we hope to execute the TAP grant, continue public outreach and perhaps pursue a school grant for a sidewalk. We would hope that a Capital Reserve Fund for the Town Center Committee would be established, and that the Council will continue to be informed on our mission toward a walkable town center. Nelson will enhance his program with a power point presentation.

A new pipeline route was initiated without notice to the Town.

Nelson distributed a thank you letter to David Lange of the National Park Service thanking him for the services of Lelia Mellon. To her other good works, we suggested adding the authorship of our brochure and walking the trails with members to add her expertise.

Other projects for consideration: We will discuss a walkway coming in from the sidewalk at Watson Park to the pavilion.

The sidewalk down Woodbury St., even though costly, makes a lot of sense to be a priority, considering the number of people walking it.

David Brooks, a stone cutter, would like to donate 2 marble benches for us to use on the Souhegan River Trail. Since they weigh 1500 pounds each, Bill thinks that Watson Park right by the sluiceway underpass is a good spot.

Peter said that the big Conservation Commission bulletin board is painted now with pictures representing the watershed.

The next meeting will be at Dec. 4 at noon.

Mary moved to adjourn at 12:50, Karen seconded.